PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on May 9, 2000.

igned: 4 · Kimberly Main

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.56 AND 1.97(c)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, copies of which are attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit these references in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make these references of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that these references indeed constitute prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0384 (Order No. IACTP009).

Respectfully submitted, HICKMAN STEPHENS COLEMAN & HUGHES, LLP

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